Stormwater Stakeholders Meeting

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
June 9, 2003
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Meeting Summary

Introductions - Name and affiliation

Overview of current status - D. Witherill

The issue of most-at-risk, threatened and sensitive streams will be the first issue addressed. The draft list was revised on June 6, 2003.

Information for the stakeholders group is available on the DEP website. The maps for streams that are impaired or have at least 7% imperviousness in their watershed is on the website, but any map that has two layers overlapping (impaired and % imperviousness) did not convert correctly; therefore, only one of the layers will show. We will be trying to correct this problem as soon as possible. The newly enacted stormwater legislation (2003 P.L. Ch.318) is also available on the website. It contains the language that requires DEP to report back to the legislature in February 2004. The list of attendees and meeting notes from the May 14, 2003 stakeholders meeting is also available on the website.

Urban Effects on Aquatic Life in Streams – Tom Danielson and Jeff Dennis

Tom Danielson and Jeff Dennis gave a PowerPoint presentation.

Tom presented an overview of Maine's water classification program, including water quality standards, types of designated uses and criteria used to measure attainment. Tom also detailed the DEP biological monitoring program, which uses a variety of data to predict the likelihood of a sampled stream/river attaining its current classification.

Jeff's presentation included a summary of the stresses that urbanization places on aquatic life in streams and the relationship between watershed percent imperviousness and stream quality. The presentation also included a description of the model used to estimate the percent imperviousness in Maine stream watersheds. A draft list of streams most at risk from development was distributed.

Discussion/Questions

Q. Was mixed use included in the calculations for determining the % imperviousness for a watershed?

A. No, land use was broken down more specifically; therefore, a "mixed use" category was not necessary.

Q. Was the effect of riparian cover taken into effect in the model?

A. No, riparian cover was not taken into account in calculating the % of imperviousness for a watershed.

Q. How does the model used take into account that not all impervious areas are the same?

A. The model does not take the type of impervious area into account, although most watersheds that are at or over the 7% impervious threshold have a considerable amount of commercial development.

Q. What does the BioMe stream model predict?

A. The model uses data collected from a stream (type of aquatic life, # of species, etc.) to determine the classification of the stream.

Q. Is there a model to predict what needs to be done to improve stream quality to bring a stream back to attainment of its classification?

A. There is not a model for this. A TMDL would need to be done as each stream has different problems and each would require its own solution.

Q. What is a reach?

A. A reach is a stream segment that is similar in as many ways as possible. A reach can be a very short segment or an entire stream.

Q. What will be missed if the 7% threshold is used? What will be done about streams that are missed?

A. There are certain to be streams that are at risk that do not meet the 7% impervious threshold. Any stream that is not meeting its classification would be added to the list of impaired/most-at-risk streams no matter what the impervious percent. DEP will try to get more recent data (the model uses data from 1992) for all streams that are in the 5% to 9% impervious range. The list will be updated when necessary.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on June 25, 2003 at the Arboretum. Another meeting is scheduled for July 14, 2003 with the location to be announced.

The focus of the next meeting will be on standards. The group has asked that definitions, criteria for each category, and what being listed in each category would mean for a stream be presented at or before the next meeting.